

Mouthing as a feature of sign language use

the ubiquity of a multilingual multimodal phenomenon
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mouthing

- ▶ mouth actions in sign languages (SLs) that match the mouth actions of spoken words
- ▶ mouthing occurs in pairings with manual signs (mouthing cxns)

assumptions

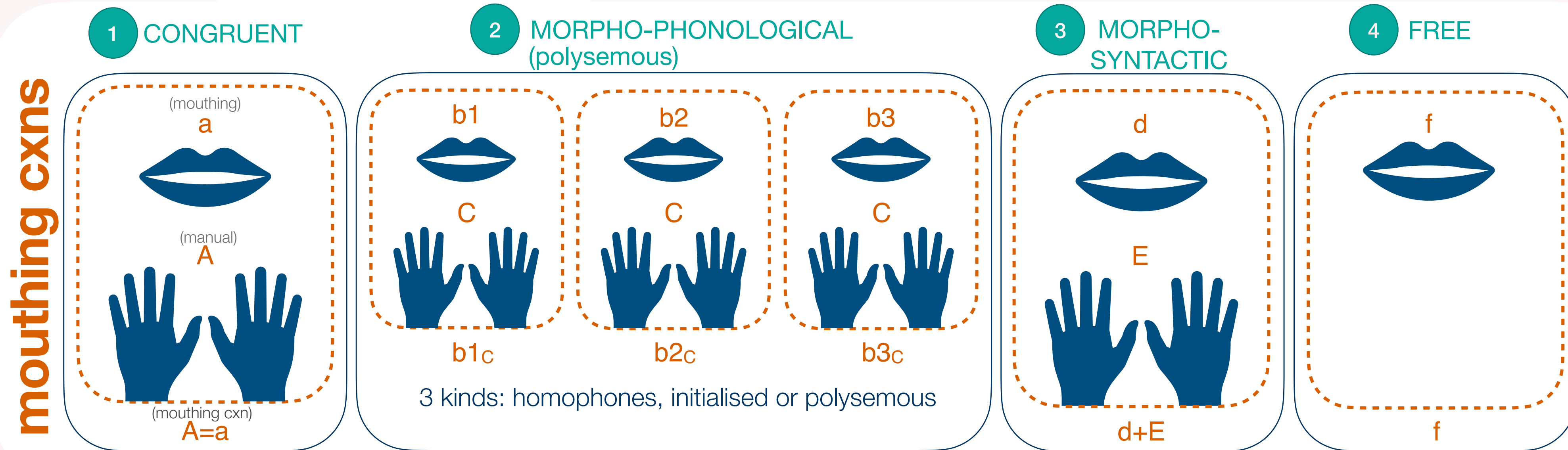
- ▶ mouthing cxns are multilingual + multimodal in origin
- ▶ oralist education is a route to mouthing
- ▶ history of oralism is a feature of *known* deaf SLs

prediction

- ▶ mouthing cxns will be over-represented in number + kind in SLs with longer histories of oralist practices i.e. deaf SLs

takeaway

- ▶ Cross-linguistic comparison shows that mouthing is a multimodal multilingual phenomenon that consistently appears in specific constructions regardless of SL type



results

	mouthing	1	2	3	4
deaf (n=26)	96% (25)	50% (14)	81% (21)	35% (9)	23% (6)
rural (n=11)	73% (8)	9% (1)	36% (4)	10% (1)	18% (2)
total (N=37)	89% (33)	41% (15)	68% (25)	27% (10)	22% (8)

Sample 1. American SL, 2. Australian SL, 3. British SL, 4. Chinese SL, 5. Croatian SL, 6. Danish SL, 7. Finnish SL, 8. German SL, 9. Hungarian SL, 10. Irish SL, 11. Israeli SL, 12. Italian SL, 13. Jakarta SL, 14. Japanese SL, 15. Jordanian SL, 16. Kenyan SL, 17. New Zealand SL, 18. Nicaraguan SL, 19. Norwegian SL, 20. Québec SL, 21. Russian SL, 22. Dutch SL, 23. Swedish SL, 24. Trinidad and Tobago SL, 25. Turkish SL, 26. Yogyakarta SL, 27. Adamorobe SL, 28. Al-Sayyid Bedouin SL, 29. Ban Khor SL, 30. Inuit SL, 31. Kailge SL, 32. Kata Kolok, 33. Konchri Sain, 34. Providence Island SL, 35. Sivia SL, 36. Yolngu SL, 37. Yucatec Maya SLs

1 Swedish SL¹
 dop 'baptism'

2 Adamorobe SL²
 fitaa 'white', tun(tum) 'black', koka 'red'

3 Dutch SL³
 brood, ETEN, brood eten 'eat bread'

4 Chinese SL⁴
 wei, sen, me, a [filler]

References
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 2 Nyst, Victoria. 2007. A descriptive analysis of Adamorobe Sign Language (Ghana). Amsterdam: University of Amsterdam dissertation.
 3 Crasborn, Onno, Els van der Kooij, Darydd Waters, Bencie Woll & Johanna Mesch. 2008. Frequency distribution and spreading behaviour of different types of mouth actions in three sign languages. *Sign Language & Linguistics* 11(1), 45-67.
 4 Lin, Hao. 2019. Functions of mouthing in the interrogatives of Chinese Sign Language. *Senri Ethnological Studies* 101, 43-56.

